

Virginia Board of Social Work

Content for Training on Supervision for Clinical Social Work

Introduction:

In November 2008 the Virginia Board of Social Work revised the Regulations Governing the Practice of Social Work to include a requirement for training of supervisors (Section 18VAC 140-20-50.C.). This applies specifically to those practitioners who provide supervision to social workers who intend to apply for licensure in the state of Virginia.

The requirement states that supervisors must have 14 hours of continuing education in supervision or a three hour graduate level course in supervision. The training must be renewed every five years. The requirement is recognition of the essential role good supervision plays in the training and mentoring of Social Workers desiring licensure. The supervisory role has a set of unique knowledge and skills that can be articulated and taught.

Content domains for training:

To clarify the supervisory training, the Board has reviewed a number of existing courses and a study produced by the Association of Social Work Boards in 2009. In producing a Guidance document we have relied significantly on the latter study. The Board recommends the following six Domains be addressed in a Clinical Supervision Course:

- The Supervisory Relationship
- Supervision of Practice
- Professional Relationships
- Work Context
- Evaluation
- Life long learning and Professional Responsibility

The competencies in each of these areas are enumerated in the ASWB study, Appendix B page B-1. The total study can be secured from ASWB, 400 South Ridge Parkway, Suite B, Culpepper, Virginia 22701. (www.aswb.org)

Additional knowledge content:

A course should also incorporate knowledge of the following:

- The Virginia Board of Social Work Regulations, particularly:
 1. Supervision, supervisory responsibilities, and requirements
 2. Regulations on the standards of practice

- The Social Work Code of Ethics (NASW or the Clinical Social Work Association)

Teachers/Trainers for a course in supervision:

Teachers/Trainers should instruct persons taking a course in supervision in the competencies as outlined in accordance with acceptable teaching practices to include but not limited to: the didactic method, discussion, role play, the distribution of relevant readings. Teachers/Trainers should be clinicians with supervisory experience and knowledge of theory and practice in the art of supervision.